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## FBI Files On 35mm Microfilm

**COINTELPRO**

**Martin Luther King Jr.- Assassination**

**Malcolm X- Surveillance**

# COINTELPRO

## THE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM Of The FBI

In 1956, the Federal Bureau of Investigation began an attempt to "expose, disrupt, and neutralize" radical and extremist elements in American society through the Counterintelligence Program, known as COINTELPRO. Groups perceived as threatening to internal security—the American Communist and Socialist Workers parties, the Ku Klux Klan, the Black Panthers, the SDS, and many others—became targets of intensive investigation and covert action by the Bureau. COINTELPRO was terminated in 1971 "for security reasons because of [its] sensitivity."

Scholarly Resources now offers the 35mm microfilm edition of the FBI COINTELPRO files, complete as released in December 1977 under provision of the Freedom of Information Act. These files are uniquely revealing of both the organizations that were investigated and the FBI. The material is arranged under twelve operational headings:

- Communist Party of the United States of America
- Hoodwink (a program to cause disputes between the Communist Party and organized crime)
- Black Nationalist Hate Groups
- White Hate Groups
- New Left
- Socialist Workers Party
- Special Operations (Nationalities Intelligence)
- Espionage
- Mexican Border Coverage
- Puerto Rican Independence Groups
- Pro-Castro Cuban Matters
- Violent Yugoslav Emigrees

Although photocopies of the COINTELPRO files may be obtained directly from the Freedom of Information Act Branch of the FBI for $5,264.80, most libraries will choose to purchase the Scholarly Resources edition in a convenient 35mm microfilm format.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:

### Assassination File

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr., was killed by an assassin's bullet on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, Tennessee. The murder of the civil rights leader touched off an extensive manhunt, which culminated in the arrest and conviction of James Earl Ray.

The FBI file on King's assassination, recently released under the Freedom of Information Act, provides a first-hand look at the Bureau in action. The 44,873 pages in the file contain all the investigative and physical evidence gathered on the case, from Ray's previous arrest records to the international leads resulting in his apprehension in London.

The various techniques, licit and illicit, that were contemplated and used by the FBI to solve the murder of Martin Luther King will be of particular interest to students of criminal justice and the civil rights movement. Social scientists will find this material useful for research into the continuing controversy surrounding King's death; the general public will find the file compelling reading.

## MALCOLM X:

### Surveillance File

Malcolm X remains one of the most unusual and controversial figures of the militant black movement. Becoming a Black Muslim while serving a prison sentence for breaking and entering, he became a minister in Elijah Mohammed's Nation of Islam upon his release in 1952. He rapidly gained recognition as the Black Muslims' most eloquent proponent of black separatism. He was ousted from the organization in 1963, formed his own rival sect, converted to orthodox Islam, and founded the Organization of Afro-American Unity prior to his assassination in February 1965.

The FBI opened a file on Malcolm X in 1953 and kept him under surveillance for the rest of his life. Encompassing 2360 pages, the file, released under the Freedom of Information Act, traces the evolution of Malcolm X from thief to figure of world prominence, and provides background on the organizations with which he was associated, especially the Nation of Islam. Moreover, the file enables the reader to view the changing perceptions within the FBI to the militant black movement.

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